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Wareham Week

ABOUT WAREHAM, FOR WAREHAM, BY WAREHAM RESIDENTS

VOL. 10, NO. 43 • TWENTY PAGES • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

FREE

► This week:



Good Samaritan killed

Luis Contreras, the co-owner of El Mariachi, was struck and killed when he stopped to help a family on the highway.

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Green thumbs

The Garden Club hosted its monthly Garden Therapy program at the Council on Aging on Friday.

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Working for play

Volunteers gathered at Lopes Park on Saturday to continue their work upgrading the playground.

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Rose-Marie Hebert with her Thanksgiving feast at the Grace Lighthouse Fellowship Church on November 16. Photo by: Nadya Korytnikova

Faith and a free feast

By Nadya Korytnikova
reporter@warehamweek.com

More than 200 people came out to the Grace Lighthouse Fellowship Church for a free Thanksgiving meal on Saturday after the church expanded its outreach campaign for the annual event.

The holiday feast — including turkey and all the fixings — was served to hundreds

of people in need across Wareham.

Pastor Dave Beguerie said the Church has been working to expand its annual outreach over the last three years. In 2016 the church had enough food for up to 140 guests, while on Saturday it served dinner to nearly twice that many people.

Beguerie believes “there is a need” in Wareham for these types of offerings.

Thanksgiving Page 10

Low score, no raise for schools chief

Shaver-Hood told to improve

By Nadya Korytnikova
reporter@warehamweek.com

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood “needs improvement,” according to her annual evaluation by the School Committee.

Made public at the committee’s November 15 meeting, the evaluation involves each committee member giving her a 1-100 numerical “grade” and making written comments on her job performance.

The average score of 76.83 puts Shaver-Hood in the “needs improvement” category. It was the result of five individual scores ranging from 63.45 (“unsatisfactory”) to 88.10 (“proficient”).

Last year the superintendent received 82.4 out of 100. In 2017, she got 83, and in 2016, she received 85. The previous grades put the superintendent in the “proficient” category, which earned her contractually obligated raises, while this year’s “needs improvement” rating means she will get no salary increase.

Shaver-Hood currently makes \$166,416 per year.

Chair Michael Flaherty said the rating should be looked at as “room to grow and improve.”

Superintendent Page 2

Weekend breakfast at Shenanigans

Library Holiday Fair is December 7

New chef specials at BB’s Bar & Grille

Holiday Pops return to Zeiterion

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A Publication of

Beaver Dam Partners Inc.
Innovation in local media

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Wareham Week is published every Thursday and distributed free within the Town of Wareham. WarehamWeekToday.com is a community website, updated constantly by the Wareham Week staff.

Wareham Week's advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's publication. More information about advertising can be found at www.WarehamWeekToday.com; click on "Advertising" at the top of any web page.

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Superintendent *continued*

"As a Chairman of the Wareham School Committee it has been my duty to be a witness to much of the work that the rest of the School Committee never sees: The immeasurable hours, the middle of the night emails, the judgment calls, and the ability to maintain dignity when under constant scrutiny whether merited or not," Flaherty said.

Shaver-Hood was present at the November 15 meeting and was given an opportunity to comment on the evaluation, but declined to do so.

Flaherty shared quotes from each of the written evaluations, without saying which member wrote which comments.

"Unfortunately, all the initiatives that the superintendent has put in the district have not encouraged students to stay, and many of these initiatives are not accessible to average or struggling students," wrote one committee member. "I do believe that the superintendent has good intentions for the students. However, it has not produced the student drive that I would have hoped to see."

Another comment noted that the school lacks a business manager, which led the superintendent to take that role upon herself, which has added "many extra hours of work" to her schedule.

"I think it is important to note that fact in her evaluation. I appreciate that she reached out to the budget advisory subcommittee on many occasions to share relevant information and ask for direction," said the evaluation.

Committee member Mary Morgan expressed concern with the superintendent's style of management, saying that many school employees have left the district because of a hostile environment and overwhelming amount of work.

"I do believe the superintendent has good intentions for students," Morgan repeated from her evaluation. "I also fully disagree with her leadership style, and I believe we have lost a lot of good people because of it."

"Four people have left the business office since last year. One resigned and three were terminated," she said. "One of these employees has been with the district for over 20 years. . . There have been five Middle School principals, three Decas principals, three special education directors, two transportation directors, four food service directors, one of whom resigned mid-year."

Morgan said none of the former administrators wanted her to disclose their names due to the fear of retaliation.

Mounds of mulch for Lopes Park

By Nadya Korytnikova
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Strong winds and bitter cold temperatures on Saturday morning worked against Wareham CORE volunteers, but, driven by their desire to make the dilapidated Lopes Playground safe and fun again, they put on gloves, hats, and extra layers and got to work.

Along with help from the Onset Fire Department, CORE volunteers spread over 400 square feet of engineered wood fiber across the park. The fiber provides fall protection to help reduce the risk of injury compared to the pebbles that previously surrounded the playground.

Over the past two months, CORE has worked with other local organizations to restore the pavilion, resurface the baseball diamond, remove debris and broken playground equipment, sand picnic tables, and install swings from the now-closed Minot Forest Elementary School. Planning for the project began about three years ago.

"I feel like our community should be proud not only of our town and municipal maintenance but also the people," said Wareham CORE President DaLiza



Onset Firefighter Krystal Semple at work.

Fernandes. "Their help and support mean everything to me."

Volunteers have completed 90 percent of work on the park and will resume improvements in the spring. Accessible pathways will be added, custom pickets will be installed, and the entire playground will be re-sanded and coated with an organic wood preservative.

"When it is done, we hope to have a playground that won't need to be changed for several years," said dedicated volunteer Pat Lester. "It will have updated equipment and more access for individuals with disabilities."



Onset Fire Department Chief Ray Goodwin shovels the wood fiber into a wheelbarrow
Photos by: Nadya Korytnikova